

**Mental Health Planning Council  
6/6/03 Meeting Minutes**

**Members present:**

Rich Greb, Chair		Bill Jones	X
Libby Jones, Co-Chair		Phyllis Kennedy	X
Jimmie Arrington		Jeff McCloud	X
Mary Bethel	X	Dr. James Osberg	X
Dorothy O'Neil		Pat Prescott	
Rochelle Edwards		Chris Rakes	
Dan Fox	X	Frank Read	
Dr. Linner Ward Griffin		Osborne Shamberger	
Allyn Guffey (Kaye Holder)	X	Paula Snipes	
Patricia Harris		Mary Recca Todd	X
John Hayes		Carolyn Wiser	X
Ellen Holliman		Laura Yates	X
Bill Hussey		Guest: Linda Swann	X
Diann Irwin		Guest: Judy Schmidt	X
Lucy Dorsey	X	Guest: Pat Solomon	X
		Staff: Amy Smiley	X
		Staff: Julie Seibert	X

The meeting was called to order by Phyllis Kennedy, who graciously agreed to act as chairperson in Rich Greb's and Libby Jones' absence. The agenda for the day was reviewed.

In response to the Council's interest in supported housing, Amy Smiley announced that Lisa Gilbert, the Executive Director of Housing Works, will attend the meeting August 1, 2003 and will speak about North Carolina housing development efforts that affect those with mental illness.

**Linda Swann, NAMI**

**Report on MHBG contract with NAMI**

Linda provided a progress report on the community education program provided by NAMI through the support of Child Mental Health Mental Health Block Grant funds. Linda manages the Young Families Program, which is responsible for providing education regarding signs, symptoms and treatment of children with mental health disorders. NAMI provides educational services to a number of agencies, community

groups and family support groups in a variety of venues. Educational programs consist of distribution of educational materials, provision of a family education curricula and speaking at conferences, meetings and seminars. NAMI also has a 1-800 number, which serves as a helpline for parents.

The goals for the program this past year have included focusing on outreach to early intervention groups, including Smart Start and working more closely with the school system. Laura Yates shared that the adult prison systems serves a number of 13-18 year olds that have been charged as adults. She indicated that there may be a number of these children who may have mental illness and the teachers of these children would benefit from education regarding signs and symptoms of mental illness.

### **Bill Jones, Council member**

#### **Overview of Client Rights Conference**

Bill provided a report of the Division's Client Rights conference as well as a comprehensive handout. He also shared a number of quotes and "words of wisdom" provided by the conference speakers. He described training that was oriented towards CFAC members and informed the group of several resources for CFACs including a CFAC web site [www.communityzero.com/cfac](http://www.communityzero.com/cfac) Georgia has a Medicaid-billable peer support program.

Bill noted that there appeared to be a number of people looking to the Division to get guidance regarding how a CFAC should be run. However, he observed that the Division is sitting back and trying to allow the local CFACs to take their own shape. This is indicative of the current paradigm shift; the Division wants direction to come from consumers and family members as opposed to the "top-down" philosophy that has prevailed previously. It was noted that there are Division staff who can assist in CFAC development and the Advocacy and Customers Services Section, headed by Chris Phillips, is available to help.

### **Amy Smiley, Division of MH/DD/SAS**

#### **Legislative update**

Amy provided an overview of legislative bills that are currently being considered by the House and Senate. Of note, there is a bill (SB 926) which will provide additional clarification to SB163, which addresses educational issues of children who are placed in residential care. Additionally, the mental health parity bill (HB 654) is no longer under consideration.

There was a great deal of discussion regarding HB 883 in which consideration is being given to allowing licensed clinical social workers, master's trained psychiatric nurses and certified clinical addiction specialists to perform the first of the two required psychiatric inpatient commitment evaluations. Concern was expressed that this was a disservice to consumers because it could be considered as just a cost savings mechanism and provides broad powers to individuals who may not be adequately prepared or qualified to conduct commitment evaluations. Planning council members shared that this proposed law could benefit consumers, as there is currently a paucity of physicians who are adequately trained and are willing to perform commitment evaluations. The proposed law would permit consumers to be evaluated by individuals with more relevant mental health training that some physicians have. It could also reduce waiting time for

evaluations as it currently can take an inordinate amount of time to locate physicians willing to perform the commitment evaluations in some areas.

**Pat Solomon, State Collaborative Co-Chair, parent**  
**Update on Comprehensive Child MH Plan**

Pat shared information regarding the development of the Comprehensive Child Mental Health Plan. The Division is developing a plan that operationalizes children's mental health services as conceptualized by the State Plan and addresses the closure of Whitaker School, downsizing of state facilities and the need to build community capacity. The Division requested the State Collaborative for Children's Services to be involved in the planning process as this group was already in existence and is comprised of representatives of North Carolina's various child-serving agencies. The Division also hired an external consultant, Chris Thompson, to assist in facilitating the planning process. Pat shared some of the guiding principles of the plan, including the premise that families should be involved in planning for services for their children; they should not have to give up their children in order to access services for them. Pat also shared specific tasks the planning committee has been involved in including the development of a service array, developing appropriate outcome measures and the need for child-serving agency boundary agreements. Pat praised the process for being inclusive of external agencies and family members.

Mary Bethel indicated that the Division should engage in the same process and have a State Collaborative for adults, particularly the geriatric population.

**Judy Schmidt, Mental Health Association**  
**Review of Child MH contract using Block Grant funds**

Judy provided an overview of the programs and services that Child Mental Health Block grant funds have supported through the Mental Health Association. Funds have primarily supported the development of a respite curriculum, which is provided at Sandhills, Halifax and Southwestern community colleges. The training provided is modular with a focus on the following topics: caring for the caregiver, children with behavioral disorders, and Alzheimer's disease.

The Mental Health Association also has children's educational programs in which they provide programming that focuses on issues such as self-esteem, communication and social skills.

**Laura Yates, Council member, Division of Prisons**  
**Mental Health programming and outcomes in the prison system**

Deferred to the next meeting.

**Julie Seibert & Amy Smiley, Division of MH/DD/SAS**  
**Review of Block Grant funds and Draft State Plan revision**

Accepted with minor revisions. Amy passed out copies of the draft State Plan 2003.

The April minutes were accepted with revisions. The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

The next Mental Health Planning Council will be held **August 1, 2003**. We will use this meeting to review the FFY04 Mental Health Block Grant Plan.